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August 1, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE
AND FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. Branden Blum
Senior Counselor
c/o Office of Assistant General Counsel for Ocean Services
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1305 East-West Highway
Room 6111, SSMC-4
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Appeal of Islander East Pipeline Company, L.L.C.; from the Objection of the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, to the Islander East Pipeline Project - Request for Immediate Recommencement of Appeal

Dear Mr. Blum:

We represent Islander East Pipeline Company, L.L.C. ("Islander East") in connection with the above appeal relating to the Islander East Pipeline Project ("Project") which has been remanded to the State of Connecticut ("Connecticut") for reconsideration of its determination in light of significant new information presented to Connecticut. By letter dated July 29, 2003, Connecticut once again denied Islander East's Request for a Consistency Determination (the "Second Objection"). In view of the Second Objection, we believe that the stay should terminate as soon as possible and the instant appeal be recommenced.

In accordance with the letters of March 17, 2003 and June 2, 2003 from the office of General Counsel of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the schedule for the completion of Islander East's appeal will recommence upon notice from the Department of Commerce. We urge the Secretary of the Department of Commerce to notify the parties of recommencement as quickly as possible.

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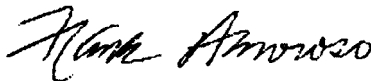
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As mentioned above, on July 29th Connecticut issued a Second Objection which is 12 pages and raises points new and beyond those raised in its original denial of October 15, 2002. A copy of the Second Objection accompanies this letter for your convenience. Accordingly, Islander East intends to supplement its initial brief, which was previously filed on February 10, 2003, no later than August 20, 2003 in response to Connecticut's Second Objection. Since we have exhausted all efforts to resolve this matter with Connecticut without a determination by the Secretary, we believe more strongly than ever that Islander East's appeal should proceed **expeditiously**. As far as scheduling, we propose the following. Given the lengthy public and agency comment periods which have proceeded since January 2003, we request that the Secretary set dates for the conclusion of the public and agency comment periods no later than August 29, 2003. Connecticut's initial brief should be filed by September 18, 2003 with simultaneous submission of reply briefs no later than October 1, 2003.

In this vein, we would like to advise the Secretary that there have been over sixty public hearings on this Project to date and that there is another public hearing scheduled for August 5, 2003 in Connecticut before the Army Corps of Engineers. We have transcripts of many of the prior public hearings on the Project, as well, and would be happy to provide the Secretary with copies on request. It should also be recognized that the public has had an extensive and continuing opportunity to comment on the Project since January of this year. In view of the extensive public involvement with regard to the Project so far, it is doubtful that a public hearing by the Secretary will produce any additional meaningful information and would only operate to delay the Secretary's consideration of the national interest and whether the national interest outweighs the possible environmental impacts of the Project. Accordingly, we would urge that the Secretary rely on the records of the extensive public hearings regarding this Project conducted to date and next week.

Thank you for your consideration with this request.

Very truly yours,



Frank L. Amoroso
Nixon Peabody LLP
Attorneys for Islander East Pipeline Company, L.L.C.

FLA:mm

cc: Thomas L. Stanton, Jr., Esq.
David Wrinn, Esq.